

**CIRCUIT COURT  
FOR  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
  
JUVENILE DRUG COURT**



**Juvenile Drug Court  
  
Manual for SUCCESS**

# **Welcome**

to

The Circuit Court for Montgomery County's

## **Juvenile Drug Court**

If you are reading this, you have taken an important step. You have agreed to participate in Montgomery County's Juvenile Drug Court, a substance abuse intervention program that will help you build your skills and strengths to get--and stay--clean and sober. You can succeed!

You won't be alone. You will be working with your family, your community, a Judge from the Circuit Court, and a Team whose members come from the Public Defender's and State's Attorney's Offices, the Department of Juvenile Services, the Department of Health and Human Services, substance abuse and family assistance treatment agencies, and other supporting agencies like the schools. Together, we will develop a treatment plan that works for you and your family.

It won't be easy. We expect a lot from you and you can expect a lot from us. This Manual is your guide to Montgomery County's Juvenile Drug Court, its rules and policies.

**If you work hard, you will succeed.** Even though substance abuse has been part of your life up to now, you can learn to choose to live without abusing drugs or alcohol. You are part of this program because we know you can succeed and are worthy of success.

# Juvenile Drug Court

## What is Drug Court?

The Juvenile Drug Court is a voluntary four phase intervention program for:

- Juveniles who:
  - are 14 years to 18 years old when they enter the program;
  - live in Montgomery County;
  - are in or need intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment;
  - are currently on probation for offenses that are NOT "crimes of violence" as defined by the Maryland Criminal Law Article, Section 14-101; and
  - are having problems staying clean and sober

The Program consists of four separate phases and includes:

- A team that will work closely with you and your family.
- The team includes:
  - A Circuit Court Judge
  - Your Public Defender or attorney
  - An Assistant State's Attorney
  - A Department of Juvenile Services Case Worker
  - Your Case Manager
- Plus the Department of Health and Human Services, substance abuse and family treatment providers, and other supporting agencies like the schools to provide:

Programs, services and activities to support participants and their families through:

- Treatment programs developed for **your** specific needs

- Group, family, and individual counseling, most of it taking place in your home or neighborhood
- Recreation Therapy
- Connecting to the community
- Support
- Development and regular review of a treatment plan
- Linkages to other services you or a family member may need
- Connections to the community
- Incentives/rewards for the positive things you do--like getting or staying clean, achieving a personal goal, or sticking with the goals and objectives of your treatment plan

○ Consistent supervision:

- Frequent appearances before the Judge—once a week during the first phase.
- Regular and random urinalysis (Drug Testing)
- Curfew checks
- Monitoring compliance with ALL of the conditions of your participation in this Program.
- Sanctions for negative behavior

○ Aftercare--Once you graduate from the Program:

- Links to community support and other programs after graduation.

## **How Do I Complete the Program?**

For more detailed information on each specific phase, go to Appendix A.

Completing a phase includes staying clean and sober for a set number of continuous days and meeting the conditions that phase associated with that particular phase.

Graduation from the program occurs when a participant completes all four phases including conditions of probation such as community service or restitution. A participant can graduate in as little as 10 months, though many participants will take a year or longer to complete the program. How well you perform in the program determines when you graduate.

## Your Family's Role

Family support is important to your success. Your parent(s) or guardian or an adult relative who will support you needs to attend the orientation session with you so that everyone knows what is expected. Your family needs to insist you obey court orders and follow the rules of the Juvenile Drug Court. Your family may need help in dealing with problems that affect your performance in the program. The Drug Court Team will work with your family to help solve those problems.

## The Juvenile Drug Court Team

The Drug Court Judge makes the decisions but will get weekly progress reports and recommendations from the Drug Court Team, whose members come from:

- the Public Defender's Office/your lawyer
- the State's Attorney's Office
- the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS)
- Your Case Manager
- And, with input from other supporting agencies like the schools , the Drug Court Team will meet regularly to review your treatment plan, your progress in the program, and make recommendations to the judge at each Court hearing.

## Drug/Alcohol Testing

- You will submit to drug testing on both a regular and random basis, with the frequency depending on the phase and your performance.
- You will be observed while providing your urine or breath sample.
  - The Judge will learn the results of all drug tests, clean or dirty.
- What if I miss a Drug Test? Any unexcused, missed test will count as a "dirty" sample, that is, a sample that tests *positive* for illegal/illicit substances. Diluting or otherwise tampering with your urine samples will count as a "dirty" sample.
- If your sample is "dirty" (positive for illegal/illicit substances), you can request a laboratory confirmation.

- If your sample is "dirty" (positive for illegal/illicit substances), the Drug Court judge may, based on recommendations from the Drug Court Team, impose immediate sanctions to help you get and stay clean.

### Confidentiality/Privacy

The consent form that you and you parent/guardian signed allows the Drug Court Team to talk about your progress in the program. That may include drug test results, how you are doing in treatment, and other medical or school information. We will respect your right to privacy and dignity in this process.

### Court Hearings

You will be required to attend regular court hearings on a weekly basis in the first phase and then less often in the later phases. If you fail to appear, the Judge may issue a writ for your arrest.

### Progress Reports

At each court hearing, the judge will hear a report about your progress. Your DJS caseworker will discuss how well you are doing in school or work in treatment or group sessions, your behavior at home, and drug test results. The report will identify both accomplishments and areas that need more work. The judge may ask you and your family about your progress and discuss any problems you may be having.

If you are performing well, the judge may recognize you with praise at the hearing, reductions in program requirements, or other incentives or rewards. If you need to correct behavior, the judge will talk to you and your family about ways to get back on track. The judge may impose sanctions that you need to complete. "Sanctions" are intended to help you focus on skills and strengths you need to succeed, and can range from increased program requirements to inpatient drug treatment.

### Incentives

When you are working hard to meet your goals in the program, the Judge and the Drug Court Team will recognize you and support you with praise and rewards like the ones

listed below. The Drug Court Team wants you to succeed! Some of the incentives you and your family may receive include:

- Ceremonies and certificates/progress tokens.
- Being allowed to come to court less often.
- Changing some of the conditions of your probation.
- Changing your curfew (with your parent's permission.)
- Moving to the next phase of the program.
- Changing a sanction where you have been working hard but had a minor problem.
- Internships, apprenticeships, job shadowing
- Group outings / Recreational outings
- Movie passes / Sporting Event tickets
- Closing your probation successfully when you graduate.

### Sanctions

The Judge will give you "sanctions" when you make poor choices or violate Drug Court rules. The sanctions will help you focus on performing better, working on your strengths, and succeeding in meeting your goals. Sanctions can include

- The Judge may warn you about the poor behavior when meeting with you and your family member.
- You may have to write an essay or make a presentation in court to explain what strategies you will use to avoid repeating the behavior in the future.
- You may have to do a work detail, where you work off your sanction.
- You may have to write or give a speech re-committing yourself to the Drug Court.
- You may have to attend and report on Adult/Juvenile Court proceedings.
- You may have to have extra drug/breath tests/curfew checks.

- You may get a stricter curfew
- You may not move on to the next phase of the program.
- You may be placed on H.E.M. (home electronic monitoring).
- You may get a weekend detention.
- You may, after a hearing, get a detention of up to seven days.
- You could be terminated from the Drug Court program and returned to a regular probation.

### Graduation

When you complete the requirements below, you will be allowed to graduate from the Drug Court:

- All program and probation requirements including paying all restitution and costs;
- Community service and other program assignments;
- 60 days straight being clean and sober (proved by drug test results) plus 45 days straight clean and sober in Phase 3; plus 30 days straight clean and sober in Phase 2, plus 15 days straight clean and sober in Phase 1;
- The Drug Court Team recommends you for graduation;
- The Drug Court Judge approves your graduation.

When you graduate from the Drug Court, your probation will be completed SUCCESSFULLY.

### Termination from the Program

You can be terminated from the Drug Court program if:

- You commit a crime of violence or are charged as an adult and the case stays in adult criminal court.



- You have a mental illness that becomes worse and you can't participate any longer.
- You continue to commit crimes.
- You revoke your consent to disclose confidential treatment information as part of the conditions for your participation in the Program.
- You are committed to a Juvenile Facility.
- You stop trying.

#### Your Responsibilities/Program Rules

1. You may not use illegal drugs or alcohol or misuse or abuse medications, at any time, for any reason.
  - You must provide proof that a doctor is supervising your use of medication.
  - You must provide a copy of all prescriptions to your Case Manager.
  - You must let your Case Manager know if your medication changes.
2. You must attend all treatment and program sessions as scheduled. In the event of an emergency, you must contact you Case Manager and provide the following written verification of the reason you could not attend: A letter signed and certified by your doctor or emergency room/hospital.
3. You must attend all Court Hearings. If you are ill, you must provide written verifications as above. If you do not appear, a writ may be issued for your arrest.
4. You must be on time for all program activities.
5. Demonstrate good behavior at home, in school, in treatment and program activities and in Court. Follow your household's rules. Be respectful and attentive toward the Drug Court Judge, court staff, and the Drug Court Team and other program participants.
6. Dress modestly and appropriately for Court. Clothing should be neat and clean and tucked in. Clothing must cover the torso (your chest, stomach, back, and hips) and upper legs. Your underwear may not be exposed. Gang attire is not

allowed. Hats are not allowed. Clothing may not display violent, racist, sexist or substance-abuse themes.

7. You must attend school full-time, or in the alternative, actively seek and maintain full time employment/internships/training in accordance with your treatment plan.
8. You may not date or engage in sexual contact with any other Drug Court participant.

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